

Applicant : Bourdev et al.
Serial No. : 09/447,024
Filed : November 22, 1999
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Attorney's Docket No.: 07844-342001 / P316

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1 and 15 are independent claims. Claims 1, 5-11, 15, 19-24 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,600,763 to Greene et al. ("Greene"). Claims 2-4, 12-14, 16-18, and 25-27 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the amendments and following remarks.

SECTION 103(a) REJECTIONS

Claim 1 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Greene. The Examiner has indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. Applicant has so amended claim 2 and cancelled claim 1 without prejudice. Applicant has also amended claims 5, 6, and 9-11 to depend from claim 2. Claims 3-14 now depend either directly or indirectly from claim 2. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 and claims 3-14, which depend from claim 2, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Greene. The Examiner has indicated that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 15. Applicant has so amended claim 17 and cancelled claim 15 without prejudice. Applicant has also amended claims 19-24 and 28 to depend from claim 2. Claims 16, 18-28 now depend either directly or indirectly from claim 17. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 and claims 16 and 18-28, which depend from claim 17, are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests all pending claims be allowed. No fee is believed to be due with the present reply. If, however, there are charges or credits, please apply them to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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